(b) what are the *main* problems faced by the handloom weavers; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ameliorate the problems of handloom weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY): (a) The employment generation in the handloom sector has been estimated at 112.2S lakh persons during the year 1992-93.

(b) The major problem faced by handloom sector has been the increasing competition from mill and powerloom sector.

(c) The Handloom Reservation Act which envisages reservation of certain itenig for exciilusive production in the handloom sector remained inoperative owing to litigations resorted to by certain powerloom interests and the resultant stay orders given by various High Courts and the Supreme Court of India. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has finally upheld the validity of the Handloom Reservation Act and the Orders issued thereunder in its judgement of February 5, 1993. Thereafter, steps have been taken for im-plementadon of the provisions of the Handloom Reservation Act in order to safeguard the interests of hasdloom sector.

Implementation of scbeme for weavers

2219. SHRI INDER' KUMAR GUJRAL Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the package of Rs. 1321 crores for the weavers announced oy him in April last year has been implemented; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKATSAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The package consists of two major schemes. The first scheme is to set up 3000 Handloom Development Centres and 500 Quality Dyeing Units over a period of 4 years. The second set of schemes is to increase the coverage *ot* handloom weavers finder the on-going programmes of Ministry of Rural Development over (he next 3 years beginning with 1993-94.

कपास के मूल्यों में वृद्धि

2220. श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :
डा. जितेन्द्र कुमार जैन :

क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि विश्व कपास निर्यातक संघ ने सरकार द्वारा कपास के निर्यात पर लगाए गए प्रतिबन्ध पर गहरा असन्तोष व्यक्त किया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या संघ ने उक्त प्रतिबन्ध का हटाने के लिए अपना एक प्रतिनिधि मंडल भी सरकार के पास भेजा है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो प्रतिनिधि मंडल द्वारा प्रतिबन्ध हटाने के लिए क्या-क्या तर्क दिए गए तथा सरकार की उन पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

वस्त्र मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जी० वेंकट स्वामी) (क) से (ग) विश्व कपास निर्यातक संघ ने सरकार द्वारा कपास के निर्यात के आस्थगन के बारे में चिन्ता प्रकट की है । संघ की ओर से उसके प्रतिनिधि मंडल ने सरकार से अनुरोध किया है कि वह किए गए करारों के दायित्वों का आदर करे क्योंकि इसका विदेशों में देश की छवि पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ता है । सरकार कपास की कीमतों में हुई असामान्य वृद्धि के फलस्वरूप विद्युतकरघा तथा हथकरघा क्षेत्र के लाखों बुनकरों को होने वाली अत्यधिक कठिनाई को ध्यान में रखते हुए कपास की स्थिति पर कड़ी निगरानी रख रही है ।

Production and Marketing of cotton

2221. DR. YELAMANCHIU SIVAJI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity of cotton produced during the current year' state-wise; and

(b) the quantity of cotton pressed into bales; and marketed, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (b) During the cuneat cotton season (1993-94) the cotton production is estimated at 125 lakh bales. Of this, about 92.35 lakh bales are estimated to have been pressed out of the total estimated arrivals of 98.37 lakh bales as on 2-3-94, leaving about 26.63 lakh bales still to arrive. The state-wise break-up is as under:—

(Figures in lakh bales of 170 Kg.)

Sta	Estimated production	Estimated arrivals as on 2-3-94	Pressing as on 2-3-94	Estimated cotton yet to arrive
1	2	3	4	5
Punjab Haryana Rajasthan	38	31.96	30.34	6.54
Gujarat	19.5	11.28	9.59	8.22
Maharashtra	19	14.81	12.58	4.195
Madhya Pradesh	12.5	11.52	9.79	9.195
Andhra Pradesh	20.5	17.03	14.98	2.875
Karnataka	8.5	7.05	5.99	1.45
Tamil Nadu	5.5	3.20	2.72	2.304
Others	1.00	0.94	0.80	0.06
Total	125	98.371	86.79	26.629

Advisory Committee of Experts on Handloom Sector

2222. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has set up an Advisory Committee of experts to identify the items to be reserved for handloom sector;

(b) if so, by when the Committee is likely to submit its report;

(c) what will be the main pui-pose of the Committee;

(d) to what extent the setting up of a Committee is likely to help the handloom sector to compete with the powerlooms which have been encroaching into the handloom industry;

(e) whether it is a fact that the major problem faced by the handloom industry is the non-availability of raw-material! and

(f) to what extent the Committee would go into this aspect also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRT G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir,